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SHALLOWS

I must swim out—
Overlong have I stayed
Here on the warm shale;
Aimlessly played. . . .
Gathering sea-shells
Empty and frail.

One dwindles here
Where the tides creep—
Grows dazzled,
Gazing too long through the clear
Wave at the sun asleep
On the sands overnear. . . .
What if the thought of the deep
Should become a fear?

I must swim out—
Lest the urge fail,
Darken duskward
And fade, as a sail.

Frances Dickenson Pinder